

IASSIST

QUARTERLY

Volume 8 Number 3

Fall 1984

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EDITORIAL INFORMATION

The IASSIST QUARTERLY represents an international cooperative effort on the part of individuals managing, operating, or using machine readable data archives, data libraries, and data services. The QUARTERLY reports on activities related to the production, acquisition, preservation, processing, distribution, and use of machine readable data carried out by its members and others in the international social science community. Your contributions and suggestions for topics of interest are welcomed. The views set forth by authors of articles contained in this publication are not necessarily those of IASSIST.

INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

The QUARTERLY is published four times yearly. Articles and other information should be typewritten and double-spaced. Each page of the manuscript should be numbered. The first page should contain the article title, author's name, affiliation, address to which correspondence may be sent, and telephone number. Footnotes and bibliographic citations should be consistent in style, preferably following a standard authority such as the University of Chicago Press Manual of Style or Kate L. Turabian's Manual for Writers. If the contribution is an announcement of a conference, training session, or the like, the text should include a mailing address and a telephone number for the director of the event or for the organization sponsoring the event. Book notices and reviews should not exceed two double-spaced pages. Deadlines for submitting articles are six weeks before publication. Manuscripts should be sent in duplicate to the Editor:

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University of California
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Los Angeles, California 90024
USA
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The Editor's Log

This issue has an interesting article about a survey of Euronet-Diane users and attitudes toward the use of similar services in the United States. Sue Gavrel has prepared a report about the last conference for those of you who could not attend, and the Treasurer's Report was included thanks to the efforts of Ed Hanis and Jackie McGee. Also, Jackie McGee has provided some information on the uses of CSNET and ARPANET. Information on other networks will be included in future issues. Kathleen Heim has provided some timely reviews of new publications and announcements of some upcoming conferences are described.

Finally, my position as editor will end as of the next issue. A new editor has not yet been selected, so if there are members who would be interested in taking on the job, please write to Sue Gavrel, President.

Best wishes,

Elizabeth Stephenson

Elizabeth Stephenson
Editor



European Users Want Ø Online



Friendliness



The factor most often mentioned by European online users for choosing a U.S. host in preference to a European one is simplicity and comfort. That is the conclusion of a market survey jointly conducted by the Euronet DIANE team and EUSIDIC. Questionnaires were distributed to end user organizations through national online user groups. Of the 324 filled in and returned, replies were received from Austria, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and all Community countries save Greece.

The principle reason for choosing a host given by the group was the range of available databases or the subject coverage of databases on a host. But the area where the Old World loses out to the new is in general user friendliness. Retrieval language is felt to be user friendly when it is easy to learn and use. Helpful features like crossfile searching, simple billing and contractual features were mentioned. Timely updating, fast delivery of handy, well-printed offline documentation and good after search service were said to be more satisfactory across the Atlantic.

The conclusions are all the more striking when it is recalled that most of those who replied to the questionnaire are "old time" online users with several years of experience. Two-thirds have been in the business for four or more years; 7% have been searching online for more than a decade. (A different sample which was surveyed privately for the Commission said that the use of a Common Command Language was the single most important development that would encourage more use of host services--see DIANE News No. 32).

One factor clearly speaking in favor of European hosts is cost. Both costs of accessing and telecommunication are lower than an American connexion. Yet it is also mentioned that the economics of "European access" are lost because of users with a wide range of interests having to use different hosts.

Of the users who mostly (60% of the time) use U.S. services, three-quarters consider it very important that there should be more databases on one host before they would swap. The ratio of those who will buy a ready-made program for an intelligent terminal to those who will program one themselves is five to two.

Contact: EUSIDIC, P.O. Box 429, GB-London W4 1DJ, ENGLAND. Reprinted from: Euronet DIANE News No. 34, Jan./Feb. 1984, page 5.



The survey asked users what was most important in online work. These are the results. The answers indicate that users would prefer a database super-market providing one stop information shopping with the aid of powerful software that made searching that bit easier. There are indications too that PTTs need to ensure more satisfactory network connexions.

	%
1. Uniformity of retrieval language	69
2. Wider range of databases per host	55
3. Easy switching from host to host	59
4. Facility to combine searches from more than one file	47
5. Facility to process a search in a number of files at the same time	46
6. Better availability/reliability of hosts	46
7. Availability of abstracts/data instead of bibliographical data only	44
8. Abolition of minimum commitment charges	40
9. Standardization of manuals	36
10. More European economic data	30
11. Reduction or abolition of entrance (joining) fees	
12. More powerful software for retrieval and storage	29
13. Faster response of hosts	27
14. Uniform contract for all hosts	27
15. More opportunity for self instruction	25
16. Online directory to available services	24
17. Improved delivery of documents ordered online	23
18. Improved facilities for online ordering of documents	22
19. Harmonization of invoices	20
20. Common revenue collection	16

IASSIST '84 Conference Report

by Sue Gavrel, President

Over 90 data archivists, librarians, researchers and other users and creators of machine-readable data attended the IASSIST '84 conference in Ottawa, May 15-18. The week began with a day of pre-conference workshops designed to provide practical information and experience on specific aspects of machine-readable data. Workshop topics included: Complex Data Files; Microcomputers; Data Library Management; and Cataloguing Microcomputer Data Files.

The conference opened with an international panel of representatives of statistical agencies from Canada, Sweden, England and the United States. The topic of the panel was "Issues Confronting Statistical Agencies: An International Perspective." Members of the panel included Christopher Denham, Office of Population Census and Surveys; Edmund Rapaport, Statistics Sweden; Lorne Rowebottom, Statistics Canada; and Paul Zeisset, Bureau of the Census. Each representative outlined the activities of his respective agency addressing specific problems which are and will be confronted in the next few years. Similar issues were addressed and the audience was able to see how different countries were confronting similar issues. The session was very informative and stimulated many questions from both the panel and the audience.

The sub-theme of Privacy and Confidentiality began in the afternoon with a plenary session focusing on the researcher's view of these issues. Professor John Bossons of the Institute for Political Analysis, University of Toronto, addressed the problems experienced in obtaining and using microdata. Two discussants, Thomas Brown, Vice-President of the Association of Public Data Users and David Worton of

Statistics Canada, responded to the issues raised by Professor Bossons.

The plenary session lead into three consecutive sessions, each dealing with a specific aspect of privacy and confidentiality: anonymization techniques, which addressed techniques used by statistical agencies and private companies in their collection and use of data; legislative aspects associated with machine-readable data in an international perspective; and the implications on archives of privacy and confidentiality issues, in particular the effect on distribution and standardization.

The second sub-theme, the Advance of Technology, addressed the advances in statistical software packages and their adaptation to microcomputers. Nancy Morrisson, SPSS, Inc. and Gary Anderson, SIR/DBMS, Inc. were the major speakers and provided insights into the changes being made in these packages. It was suggested that a useful addition to this type of session would be a user of these packages who could discuss problems encountered in using the software.

Three concurrent sessions followed, each one dealing with a specific aspect of the topic. "To Minis and Micros" dealt with the adaptations or approaches required by archivists and researchers in analysing data in hierarchical and relational databases. The "On-line Bibliographic Systems" session discussed the different approaches that can be taken in developing on-line bibliographic systems.

The third sub-theme, Changing Roles and Responsibilities, began with a session on "The Growth of the Information Elite." Nancy Brodie, National Library of Canada; Joseph Paradi, Dataline Systems Limited; and Erika

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CONFERENCE REPORT --continued

Von Brunken, Karolinska Institute Library and Information Centre, Sweden, debated the question of whether a new elite was being created due to the cost of equipment and knowledge in the use of computers. Three concurrent sessions followed: "Data Archives and Libraries: New Challenges," which assessed the impact of government policies on the establishment and maintenance of data archives; "Data Collection and Use: New Directions," which addressed new trends in data processing and their impact on governments, universities and private companies; and finally, the "Collection and Use of International Data," which outlined the problems which the collection of data from cross-national sources poses to both archivists and researchers.

Lunch hour meetings were held for two groups: Data Link and the IASSIST Working Group on the Preparation of an International Standard Bibliographic Description for MRDF. The latter met to discuss a draft working paper and approve recommendations on changes to specific cataloguing rules. This report will be submitted to the ISBD (NBM) Review Group.

Discussions carried over into the social activities of the conference. Both Statistics Canada and the Public Archives sponsored receptions for participants. A 10th Anniversary buffet/reception was held on the last night followed by a digital disco. A tour of the city in a double decker bus with a stop at Statistics Canada to see a CANSIM demonstration was organized. The week provided an excellent opportunity for participants to meet with colleagues from North America and Europe and discuss issues and problems which are confronting the profession.

The Program and Local Arrangements Committees would like to thank all the participants for their enthusiastic

Upcoming Elections

Elections will be held this Fall, and all paid IASSIST members will receive information shortly. New officers will assume their positions at next year's conference in Amsterdam. The nominations and elections committee is composed of three people:

Sue Gavrel
Machine Readable Archives
Public Archives of Canada
395 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1A 0N3

Jackie McGee
The Rand Corporation
1700 Main Street
Santa Monica, California
USA 90406

Ekkehard Mochmann
Zentralarchiv fur Empirische
Sozialforschung
University of Cologne
Bachemer Strasse 40
D-5100 Cologne 41
Federal Republic of Germany

Please address questions or comments to this group.



participation in the conference. Next year's conference will be in Amsterdam, May 20-24. The theme of the conference is "Public Access to Public Data."

ASSIST TREASURER'S REPORT

January 1, 1984 - May 9, 1984

U.S. BANK ACCOUNT

Transfer check from Ed Hanis	\$1400.00
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Revenues	2505.00
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TOTALS		\$3905.00
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Expenses:

Bank charge (checks)	\$ (18.68)
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Stationery
(print letterhead for
invoices & letterhead) (21.20)

Postage	(21.14)
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TOTAL	<u> </u>	(61.02)
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Quarterly	
Bulk Mail Permit	(40.00)
Postage deposit	(75.00)
Production costs	
Nov. Dec/83 Jan/84)	(1214.93)

TOTALS	(1329.93)	(\$1390.95)
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U.S. BANK BALANCE	\$2514.05
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CANADIAN BANK ACCOUNT

Transfer from Ed Hanis	\$1300.00
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Revenue	40.00
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TOTAL	\$1340.00
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MEMBERSHIP REPORT AS OF MAY 9, 1984

Regular memberships	91 @ \$20.00	\$1820.00
Regular membership	1 @ \$15.00	15.00
Student membership	1 @ \$10.00	10.00
Subscriptions	20 @ \$35.00	700.00
		<hr/>
	Total	\$2545.00

DEPOSIT U.S. Bank \$2505.00

DEPOSIT Canadian Bank \$ 40.00

Foreign checks sent for collection:

7 Memberships, 1 subscription \$175.00

Not deposited as of May 9, 1984:

3 Canadian memberships \$ 60.00

1 U.S. Subscription \$ 35.00

CANADIAN ACCOUNT - STATUS AS OF MAY 11, 1984

REVENUES

A. Transfer from Treasurer	1300.00
Subtotal	1300.00
B. Membership Renewals (2)	40.00
Conference Registration (16 CDN)	1420.00
Conference Registration (26 US- 2120.00)	2727.98
Interest	5.70
Subtotal	4193.68
Subtotal A & B	5493.68

EXPENDITURES

Purchase of cheques	6.81
Graphics	75.00
Bradda Printing	81.64
Picadilly Bus Tours	150.00
Tags	17.12
Advance to buy liquour for Hospitality Suite	200.00
	530.57

BALANCE

A. Conference revenues and expenditures (to date)	3663.11
B. Total Balance	4963.11

Women of the World

The Census Bureau announces the release of its report, Women of the World--Latin America and the Caribbean. The 173-page report, which was prepared with the support of the Agency for International Development, presents statistics on women and men in tables and color charts accompanied by textual analysis of the data on population distribution and change, literacy and education, economic activity, marital status, fertility, and mortality. Each chapter includes a discussion of the quality and availability of data and a critique of the concepts used to measure the situation of women. The analysis covers 21 countries of the Caribbean, Middle America, and South America.

The Women of the World series will include three additional reports covering developing countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and the Near East and North Africa. These reports are due for release over the next several months.

Women of the World--Latin America and the Caribbean (S/N 003-024-05667-4) is available for \$5.50 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.



Upcoming Conferences

Economic History Congress—1986

The Ninth International Economic History Congress will be held in Bern, Switzerland, August 24-29, 1986. There will be four forms of working sessions: Debates and Controversies: five subjects, based on discussion of a general report circulated in advance; Research themes: eight subjects, with discussion of each based on papers circulated in advance; Workshops: informal sessions; and Reports on current international research projects. The Executive Committee of the International Association has adopted the following program:

Debates and Controversies

- (1) Mountain economies and societies.
- (2) The dynamics of urban decline in the late middle ages and early modern times: economic response and social consequences.
- (3) The emergence of a world economy, 18-20th centuries.
- (4) multinational enterprise: international finance, trade and politics in the 20th century.
- (5) The impact of the depression of the 1930s and its relevance for the contemporary world.

Research Themes

- (1) International productivity comparisons and problems of measurement.
- (2) Long-term changes in nutrition and standards of living.
- (3) The structures of internal (domestic) trade, 15th-19th centuries.
- (4) Local and international credit in the Middle Ages.
- (5) Oil in the world economy.
- (6) Origins and development of public participation in private enterprise.
- (7) Technical education and social mobility.

- (8) Economic and social history of the ancient world (subject to be specified).

IFDO/IASSIST International Conference—May '85

Theme: Public Access to Public Data

Public data, like census data, administrative micro-data and survey data, offer many opportunities for research in the social sciences and related disciplines. In the past five years new developments in computer software and hardware have accelerated the technical availability of data material. Computer networks, "intelligent" terminals, micro-computers, on-line databases, sophisticated software packages, etc., make it technically possible to access an enormous amount of data for scientific research.

With these developments new problems emerged concerning the access of the data. Existing regulations for the control of the flow of data proved to be inadequate. Researchers tried to find new ways for optimal usage of the technical possibilities to get access to public data.

The next IFDO/IASSIST conference in Amsterdam will be an excellent opportunity for people who are dealing with public data to present new developments in this area, and to discuss the related problems. The meetings will include the discussion of papers on a variety of topics of interest to *social scientists, data archivists, librarians, research*

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Upcoming Conferences

administrators, government records managers and users of data banks.

Conference Format

The conference will include plenary sessions and concurrent sessions with presentations and demonstrations. One day of the conference will be devoted to workshops on specific topics like census software packages, statistical programs for microcomputers and international data. Conference language: English.

The registration fee will be Dfl. 300 (app. U.S. \$100). The fee includes conference activities, workshops, a book containing the outlines of the presented papers, coffee- and tea-breaks, a reception and a number of meals. The meetings are planned in the conference rooms of the Grand Hotel Krasnapolsky, in the very center of Amsterdam.

Call for Papers

Papers are being solicited on the various aspects of the theme of *Public Access to Public Data* as described above. Abstracts of papers for the conference should be submitted to the conference program committee before December 1, 1984. Abstracts should be typed in English, with a maximum of 500 words.

Conference Organization

The *International Federation of Data Organizations for the Social Sciences (IFDO)* and the *International Association for Social Science Information Services and Technology (IASSIST)* cooperate in the organization of the Amsterdam conference. The conference will be hosted by the *Steinmetz Archives* (the Dutch data archive), which is a department of the *Social Science Information and Documentation Center*. For information write to: STEINMETZ ARCHIVES, IFDO/IASSIST CONFERENCE, Herengracht 410-412, 1017 BX Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Telephone (20)225061.

Please indicate whether you plan to submit an abstract.

Conference on Data Bases in the Social Sciences - June 1985

ICDBHSS/85 - June 22-24, 1985

Data bases, coupled with rapidly changing computing technologies, offer expanding opportunities for researchers and educators. Such data bases include machine-readable texts, social network information, archives of art objects, concordances, census and survey data, lexical items, election returns, legislative records, and cross-disciplinary information of all types.

ICDBHSS/85 will bring together several hundred participants from around the world to share information about creating, using and maintaining data bases in the humanities and social sciences. Participants in previous conferences have included linguists, historians, librarians, statisticians, political scientists, demographers, genealogists, semanticists, archivists, musicologists, artists--researchers who are interested in exchanging ideas about the use of data bases.

Call for Papers

The conference invites papers that focus on opportunities for data base users provided by such new technologies as microcomputers, videodiscs, national and international communication networks, on-line catalogs, and electronic bulletin boards.

Abstracts

Abstracts of papers intended for inclusion in the program should be submitted before *September 1, 1984*.

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ALL ABOUT DATA FILES...

Directory of Computerized Data Files, 1984

NTIS is pleased to announce the publication of the *Directory of Computerized Data Files, 1984*. This directory contains descriptive information on the content of data files which are available from NTIS.

The Directory is published for the convenience of potential users of the almost 1,000 data files described inside. The *Directory* contains two primary sections: (1) the 232-page section containing the data file abstracts (organized by subject category) and (2) the 89-page section containing several appendices.

The Abstract section is subdivided into 27 subject categories in three principal areas: Economics, Social Services, and Science and Technology. Subject categories range from Agricultural Economics to Vital Statistics, from Demography to Transportation.

Users of the *Directory* who wish to locate files available from a particular agency should refer to Appendix I, which is a listing of all file titles included in the Directory who wish to locate files available from a particular agency (or their contractor).

An alternative way to use the *Directory* is through the subject matter index. Appendix III contains a subject matter index arranged in alphabetical order by keyword or keyphrase. Each keyword/keyphrase contains descriptors for the types of data items contained in each file and related identifiers.

Appendix II lists all files in order by NTIS accession number.

Copies of the *Directory* may be purchased from NTIS, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia, USA 22161. The order number is PB84-160126, the cost is \$40 Domestic/\$50 Foreign. Any questions concerning the *Directory*

should be referred to Stuart M. Weisman, Office of Data Base Services, (703) 487-4807.

Epidemiology Data

The original raw data files (which total about 150) in the Drug Abuse Epidemiology Data Center, or DAEDAC, are now available to researchers from its new address. These data files can be reproduced and supplied (with documentation) to interested researchers for \$100 each, which is used to cover handling and computer maintenance costs for the data system. Original investigators of major drug abuse studies are also urged to consider using the DAEDAC as a permanent archive for their raw data. Since the DAEDAC currently operates without a regular staff or funds, however, the original investigator must accept responsibility for editing and providing computer documentation necessary for secondary research applications. Conditions for use of data files in the DAEDAC are negotiated with original investigators. For further information, contact D. Dwayne Simpson, Professor and Director, Behavioral Research Program, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

Data on Floppies

NTIS is pleased to announce the availability of data files on floppy diskettes compatible with the IBM-PC microcomputer. This is a pilot program whose objective is to determine if

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DATA FILES

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there is a need for data file products in this medium. If enough interest is generated, then NTIS will make a long term commitment in floppy diskettes.

Presently the following three data files are available in diskette form:

- Broadcast FM Data Base (from the Federal Communications Commission);
- Hershey Contribution to Computer Typesetting Techniques (from the National Bureau of Standards); and
- Data Set 456, Food Composition Data in Common Units (from the U.S. Department of Agriculture).

These files on diskette, and others that follow, will be available in ASCII format (i.e., raw data) and in formats suitable for use with various commercial data base management software packages. Additionally, subsets of any complete file previously produced on diskette will be made available on diskette.

For specific details about this new exciting line of products at NTIS, including pricing and ordering information, please contact the Data Base Services Group at NTIS, or phone (703) 487-4807.

ICDBHSS/85 Conference

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The full names of all authors and complete addresses should appear on the front pages. Abstracts should be typed in English, double-spaced, and no longer than 500 words. MAILNET may be used to submit abstracts and to communicate with the Conference Coordinator.

Conference Site

Grinnell College is located in Grinnell, Iowa, 40 miles from the state capital of Des Moines. A private, co-ed, residential institution with about 1,200 students, the college is committed to excellence in liberal education in the arts and sciences. Grinnell aspires

to be a leader and exemplar in the use of computing as an educational resource. The college's extensive computing system includes a network of four main-frame computers, more than 150 terminals, and more than 100 microcomputers.

Conference housing will be in college dormitories, some of which are air-conditioned, and in area motels. Meals will be provided in the college dining rooms.

Funds are being sought to provide travel subsidies for ICDBHSS/85 participants from outside the United States.

Conference Format

The conference will include presentations, demonstrations, vendor displays, and ample opportunities for informal discussions. Audio-visual and computing equipment will be available for presenters and participants.

The language of the conference will be English.

The registration fee--which includes conference activities, the published proceedings, receptions, meals, and travel between the Des Moines airport and Grinnell--is \$125 (U.S.).

ICDBHSS/85 REPLY FORM

PLEASE SEND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

____ I WILL SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT.

RETURN THIS FORM TO:

THOMAS F. MOBERG
ICDBHSS/85 CONFERENCE
GRINNELL COLLEGE
P.O. BOX 805
GRINNELL, IOWA 50112-0810

BOOK REVIEWS

CAMPUS COMPUTING STRATEGIES

McCredie, John W., Editor
Bedford, Massachusetts: Digital Press,
1983. ISBN 0-932376-20-7

Individuals in charge of computing at Hamilton College, Dartmouth, Pepperdine, Carnegie-Mellon, Rensselaer Polytechnic, Stanford, Cornell, the University of Iowa, the University of Minnesota and California State University describe strategic plans in the information processing area.

Allusions to the needs of social scientists are scattered throughout but are not emphasized. The focus of this volume is to provide examples of the campus computing environment for the 1980s to describe organizational implications for colleges and universities and to address planning issues.

Common strategies in information processing include: 1) a centralized administrative structure; 2) a decentralized information processing environment; 3) fostering of microcomputer growth; 4) local and national networking; 5) library automation; 6) information processing literacy; 7) text processing; and 8) electronic mail.

The importance of this volume for those supporting social science research lays in its depiction of broad-based campus action in the computing areas. It might be viewed as a political action tool in that it delineates systemic developments and infers appropriate points of entrance to the computing planning environment. If data professionals can identify key campus planning groups, these groups can be approached, co-opted and encouraged to support the needs of social scientists.

This book is especially recommended to those who work in a murky computing environment. It may help in sorting out that environment and suggest techniques for interceding.

*Kathleen M. Hein
Louisiana State University
School of Library and Information
Science*

ONLINE DATABASE SEARCH DIRECTORY

John Schmittroth, Jr. and Doris
Morris Maxfield. First Edition.
Part 1 of 2 parts. Detroit: Gale
Research Company, 1983.
ISBN 0-3103-1698-6; ISSN 0741-0077

The organizations in this directory are those that will provide searching of online databases to the general public, or at least to some individuals outside their own organizations, through the use of publicly available online searching systems.

Many libraries will be providing their own searching services and may wonder why they might need referral information to other organizations in competition with them. The answer lies in the proliferation of vendors of database searching systems in the United States and Canada, the geographical scope of this directory. In fact, pages 191-192 list 86 different searching systems which have been reported as being searched by listed agencies. It is unlikely that most libraries have accounts with this many search services.

The basic record contains 16 items of descriptive information on the services including names, addresses, telephone numbers, age, staff size, fee and availability policies, and systems accessed.

The problem, it seems to this reviewer, will be in keeping the material up to date in a rapidly changing field. People and expertise at the services listed are certainly subject to change.

Nonetheless the indices to organizations by database searched and systems accessed should be quite valuable. The geographical index, by state and sub-arranged by city (the Canadian section by city alone) may well be useful for the "where can I get a search done while I'm in..." sort of question. The search personnel index provides something of a directory to active searchers, and the organization index

provides something of a directory to active searchers, and the organization index is useful if one desires to find the main description of a service without knowledge of its official name. As an example, entry under "BLISS," the acronym used by the Middleton Library at Louisiana State University, will lead you to the complete record.

I suspect that the index by subject area searched will have the least value. There are 23 broad topics that the services were asked to check if they considered them a specialization. There are nearly nine pages of entries for services specializing in Education, over ten specializing in Medicine and the Biosciences, eight in Social Sciences, and seven in "any topic" and seven in Science and Technology (which might not include Chemistry, Engineering, Medical or Materials Science which have separate entries). Law, the smallest specialization, has entries covering two pages. Since it seems unlikely that "any topic" can really be a specialty or that one can specialize in Science and Technology but not Chemistry, Bioscience or Engineering at the same time, one must believe that there was some confusion in the use of these categories. The only question this reviewer can conceive of answering with this index is "What search services believe that they specialize in one of these topics?" The person with a subject search will, I suspect, first use the geographical index and then check the physically close entries to see if they handle the desired topic.

However, the availability of this index in no way detracts from the usefulness of the tool as a whole.

*Bert R. Boyce
Louisiana State University,
Baton Rouge
School of Library and Information
Science*

The CSNET network spans several physical nets: ARPANET, Telenet, and a telephone-based mail relay service, Phonenet. The primary purpose for CSNET is to provide mail and file transfer services and connectivity among all persons engaged in computer science research.

CSNET grew out of a meeting which took place at Madison, Wisconsin in May, 1979. The meeting was called to discuss the "feasability of establishing a Computer Science Department research computer network. Members of the group were all familiar with the services provided by ARPANET connecting military sites, government sites and a few universities engaged in research for the Department of Defense (DoD). There was some concern by those attending the meeting that researchers with ARPANET access would tend to interact among themselves and ignore others without access.

After considerable effort the group submitted a proposal to NSF for funds to develop CSNET. However, peer reviews and evaluations were varied and contained some skepticism about the proposed project. After much more work and planning the proposal was revised and finally submitted in October, 1980. Contracts were signed and development began in June, 1981.

Phase One of the development established mail relay service and a host. Phase Two implemented the software to connect hosts across Telenet and Phonenet and Phase Three created the organization to control and manage the network.

CSNET development costs were provided by the National Science Foundation (NSF) but the network is intended to be self-sufficient once the development is completed. The initial development was carried out by several groups at the University of Delaware, Purdue University, The Rand Corporation and the University of Wisconsin under management by NSF. The Coordination and Information Center (CIC) has since been established at Bolt, Beranek and Newman, Inc.

CIC continues to develop CSNET as well as help new users establish connections, provide information to the public and to member sites, answer questions from a 'hotline' and collect and disperse monies from membership dues, equipment and software, and network use.

CSNET is open to institutions that support a significant computer research activity. For information on CSNET membership write CSNET, Inc., Bolt, Beranek, and Newman, Inc., 10 Moulton Street, Cambridge, MA 02238 or call CSNET Hotline (617) 497-2777.

Source: Communications of the ACM, "The Computer Science Research Network CSNET: A History and Status, Douglas Comer, Vol. 26, No. 10, October, 1983."

CSNET

The ARPANET is an operational, computerized, packet switching, DoD digital network. The network began as an experiment in late 1969 intended to advance the state-of-the-art in computer networks.

The design of the network was intended to allow efficient communications between heterogeneous computers and allow hardware, software, and data resources to be shared by a wide community of users. Geographically separated computers (hosts) often differ in type, speed, operating systems and other characteristics. Each host computer is connected into the network through a local node computer called an IMP, TIP, or TAC. Interconnected IMP's form the complete network. There are also associate organizations that may have users on the ARPANET but do not have hosts connected to the ARPANET.

Each node receives and forwards messages to neighboring nodes in the network until it reaches its final destination IMP, which passes the message along to the destination host.

Messages received by a node are broken into several packets and passed though the network in the direction of the destination. Packets are reassembled to form the original message. An acknowledgement for receipt of the message is sent from the destination to the source host. This acknowledgement is called a Ready for Next Message (RFNM). If a message is not delivered due to node failure, line disruption, etc., an Incomplete Transmission message is sent.

ARPANET users may access local or distant computers over the network. It is also possible to exchange messages, create realtime links between users, transfer files from one computer to another and submit batch jobs to a distant computer.

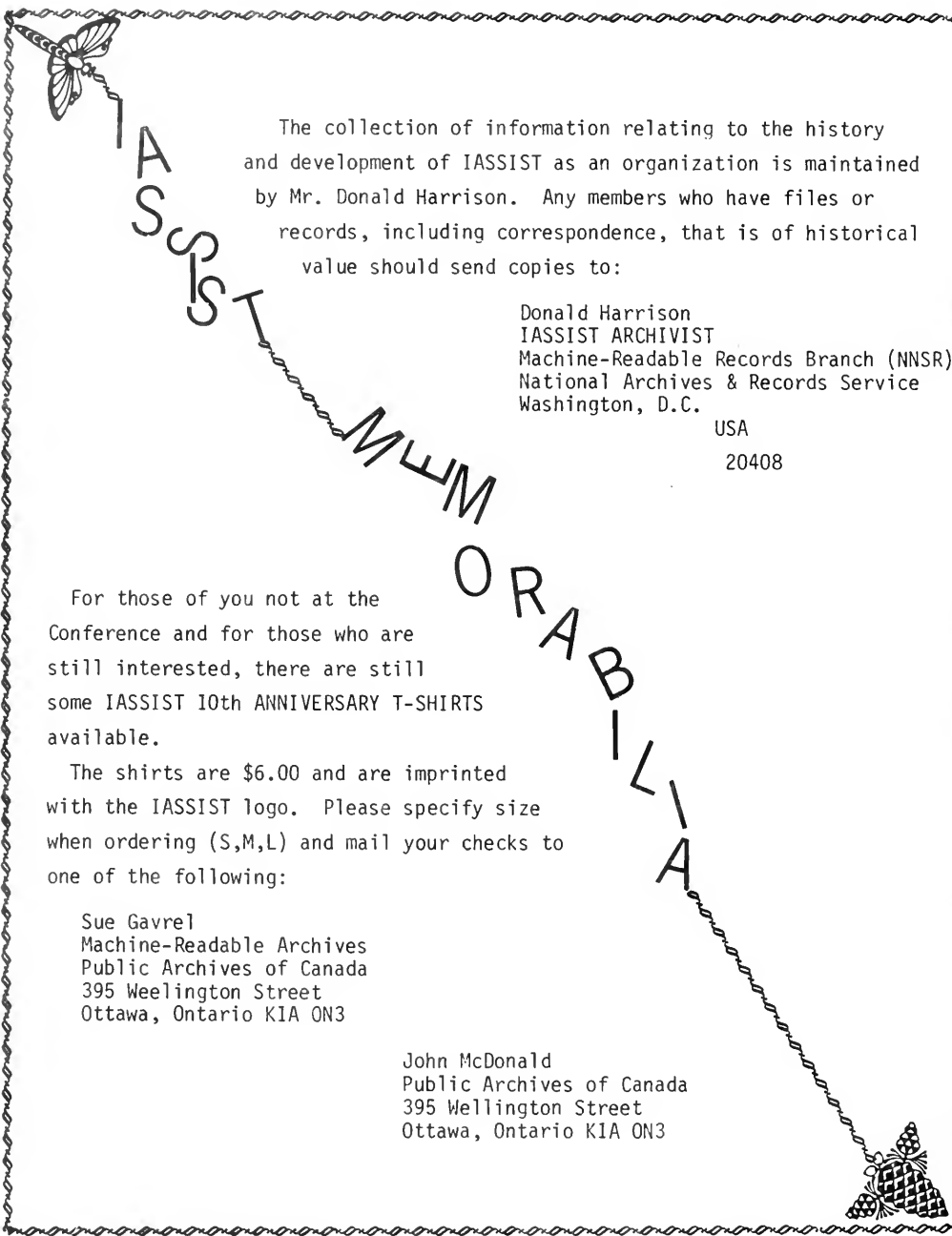
Use of ARPANET must not violate applicable privacy laws. The ARPANET is an operational DoD network and is not intended to compete with comparable commercial services.

The Network Information Center (NIC) serves as a center for collection and dissemination of information about the ARPANET. To correspond to NIC, write to Elizabeth Feinler, Manager, ARPANET Network Information Center, Room EJ221, SRI International, Menlo Park, California 94025, or phone (415) 859-3695.

Source: ARPANET Directory, March, 1982.

*Produced and published by: National Information Center
SRI International
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ARPANET



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